



LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

Circulation 800+
Issue 68, August 2017

Lehigh River Watch

**LRSA's Running Total:
Trout Stocked: 360,000**

Inside this issue:

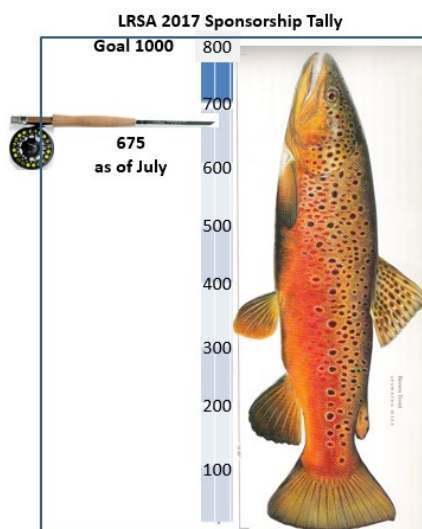
Stocking Areas	2
A Girl on the River	3
Trout Fishing Around the Globe	3
Hooking Up Down Under	5
Lehigh Fly Fishing Journal	6
2017 LRSA Town Distribution	7
Sponsorship Form	7
Water Quality—Treichlers	8
Ardea Alba—Poetry	8
Conservation Program	9
High Water Blues	10
Thermal Refuge Signs	11
Youth Outreach at LRSA	12
Gerhard Buchinski— 2017 Sponsor of the year	12
2017 Lunkerfest Memories	13
LRSA Officers and Board	14
June Meeting Pic with PFBC Guests	14

The 2017 Lunkerfest was our 6th annual and was successful in many measures. More giant trout were stocked this year than ever before, we had a professional concession stand with great food and our most generous prize list so far. The LRSA purchased \$5,800 worth of trout for the event, including more than ten 26" plus trout, and received about \$5,500 dollars in proceeds from registration fees and food. This event was a treat for a number of youngsters who enjoyed fishing for the brookies we had in the kiddie pool. Ryan Scott landed the largest trout of the day (see picture below) and the river supported many large trout catches for weeks after the event, such as those pictured below and many others. The LRSA stocked the same number overall as last year (about \$30,000 worth or ~8,000 lbs of 50/50 brown/rainbow in 14-17 class) in all the same places. However the cost of the trout did increase and we spent more this year on trout than ever before. We now need to replenish our coffers so please be generous in your donations to our non-profit organization! In addition, this year the PFBC stocked 1,000 trout in Jim Thorpe, a first for our stretch of the Lehigh, that we are working to see continue and was the result of our persistent lobbying and work in maintaining the trout fishery. The LRSA is proud of a banner year in the Lehigh trout fishery and we thank you for helping make this possible and are counting on your continued support.

Hopefully you have a chance to look at the LRSA facebook page, Tom Gyory has done a great job posting angling videos, Ryan has mastered the art of the river side trout selfie, and lots of interactive chatter on Lehigh river fishing.



Above left to right: Ryan Scott wins Lunkerfest with 24" 7.2 lb bow, Dave Schafer caught this 24" 6.5 lb bow days later, unidentified LRSA sponsor with brown from a week after Lunkerfest



The June meeting (pictured below) was held at the Gap Nature Center in Slatington and featured guest speaker Executive Director of PA Fish and Boat Commission John Arway. The attendees had a great opportunity to hear about the priorities at PFBC and how the PFBC views priority programs at the LRSA. Other visitors from PFBC were River Biologist Daryl Pierce, WCO Scott Christman, and WCO Travis Miller.



Monthly Meeting Location—Meetings now held at Sliders Pub in Schnecksville, 4650 Main St. (Rt 309). 610-769-4004. Meetings 7-9 pm the last Tuesday of each month. Please visit us, we would like to meet you and get your input!

DW MOYER CRANES SERVICES, LLC
186 MURPHY RUN
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360



OFFICE~570-421-5400

SHANE BINDER~MOBILE~570-234-4363

LRSA stocks trout in four main areas along the 29 miles of river between Northampton and Jim Thorpe. A listing of most popular spots are:

Jim Thorpe—use the train station parking lot where the rafters put in (it is just below the 903 bridge). Or, you can walk up river a bit. Also try Glen Onoko—follow 903 over the river and stay left into the park. There is a great trout pool a short walk from the parking lot, or you can walk or ride a bike upstream into the gorge to Park Bench, Bear Creek trib area is also very good.

Packerton—pull off 209 where the road dips down steeply between Lehighton and Jim Thorpe. You can park and walk straight back to the river, lots of good access there. Head down river about 100 yards to pump house and you will find a riffle with a deep pool behind it.

Lehighton—Make a right off of 209 at Dunbar's Beverages and take the road all the way back to the rocky beach near the river. Or, drive down stream on the access road that runs parallel to route 209 and walk in.

Parryville—Pull off route 248 at the Rock Hill Cement Company and park at the Canal Park area. The Pohopoco Creek confluence with the Lehigh provides very good, cold, conditions for trout. The Pohopoco holds fish too, particularly below the dam.

Bowmanstown—Fishing is good above or below the Route 895 bridge. You can park under the bridge. Or, drive down to the new boat ramp about 1/2 mile south of Lizard Creek, on west side of river: we call the large pool the "Musky Pool" and it is where we hold Lunkefest.

Palmerton—Head south on 248 and take the Palmerton exit. Take the second dirt road to the right and head down to the "horseshoe." The river forms a big bend in that area and there is a pool just below the rapids.

Slatington—Heading east on 248, take a right over

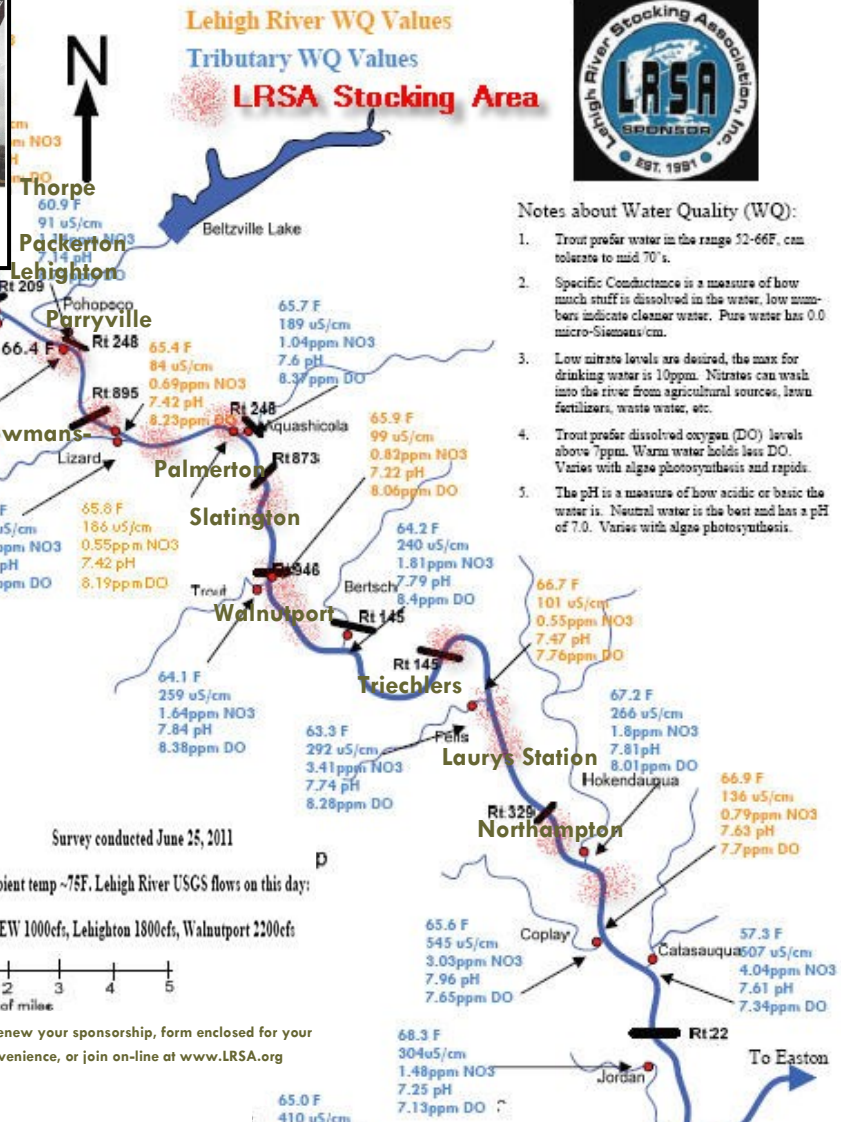
the 873 bridge and you will see Slatington Fabricators on your left. You can find a place to park along the road at that point and walk-in access to the river (you will pass the Szokos Bros. building). This spot is just below shale riffles and there are lots of good fishing pools in that area.

Walnutport—Head into Walnutport and Canal Park on the east side of the river just below the Main Street Bridge. Head down to the pavilion (about 1/4 mile downstream) and walk to the river. The canal runs about one mile down to Bertsch Creek. You will find many good pools along the way.

Treichlers—Heading north on Route 145, take a right onto Cove Road before you get to the bridge. Drive down and park under the bridge. Fish there or head up stream to the fantastic pool just below the old dam.

Laurys Station—Take River Road on right as you are heading North on Route 145. Drive down and park at the dead end.

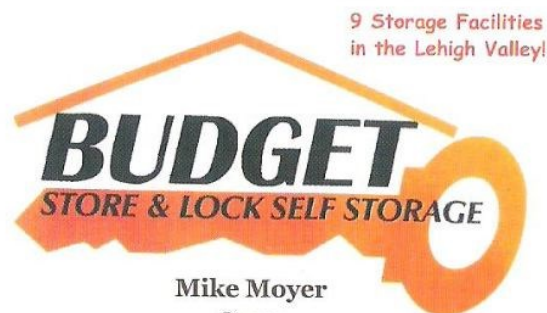
Northampton—Fish below the dam where Route 329 crosses the Lehigh. Anywhere from the dam down to the pavilion area is a good area for fishing.



Notes about Water Quality (WQ):

1. Trout prefer water in the range 52-66°F, can tolerate to mid 70's.
2. Specific Conductance is a measure of how much stuff is dissolved in the water, low numbers indicate cleaner water. Pure water has 0.0 micro-Siemens/cm.
3. Low nitrate levels are desired, the max for drinking water is 10ppm. Nitrates can wash into the river from agricultural sources, lawn fertilizers, waste water, etc.
4. Trout prefer dissolved oxygen (DO) levels above 7ppm. Warm water holds less DO. Varies with algae photosynthesis and rapids.
5. The pH is a measure of how acidic or basic the water is. Neutral water is the best and has a pH of 7.0. Varies with algae photosynthesis.

If you shop Amazon, please shop smile.amazon.com and designate LRSA to receive a portion of the sale be donated to our non profit organization.



Mike Moyer
Owner
610.952.2122

9 Storage Facilities
in the Lehigh Valley!

Commercial

Industrial

Institutional



**SLATINGTON
FABRICATORS, LLC**

Structural & Misc.
Steel Fabrication & Erection

THOMAS L. SZOKE
President

8649 Paint Mill Road
Slatington, PA 18080

tmarquess@slatingtonfabs.com

Phone: (610) 760-0588
Fax: (610) 760-9066

A GIRL ON THE RIVER

I remember as a little girl using a spinning rod and either hot dogs or bread as bait, and that first time I caught a Sunfish I was mesmerized. I only fished a hand full of times because it's just not what 'girls' did back then. My mom wasn't into fishing and my dad didn't have the patience or interest in it so my exposure was limited. Thru the years I have fished a couple times with friends or cousins but it was all spin fishing with bait and bobbers just waiting for the fish to hit your line. Fly Fishing was something I had seen on television but knew nothing about except it looked visually amazing and seemed like something that must take a lot of skill. Then last year I took an impromptu weekend get away with my best friend to a tiny town in the Catskills of NY called Roscoe, which turns out is also called Trout Town USA. Suddenly my interest in fly fishing came upon me full swing. I had very little knowledge of it and no one I knew up until then fly fished but I wanted to try it out. After that trip I started doing my research and looking into how I could learn more, even buying the book 'Fly Fishing For Dummies,' which is a great book, but nothing was going to give me the hands on experience I would need to learn how to fly fish.

So here I am going to a school to learn how to fly fish, which seemed crazy to my friends and family but I decided trying to learn from friends is like trying to learn how to parallel park with your dad, in theory it works, in reality it's never going to happen. My research led me to Orvis Fly Fishing School, which was held on the grounds of Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, in Farmington Pa. It had rave reviews online from people just trying out the sport to others who wanted to sharpen their game. The class was small only 7 people which made it a perfect learning environment, and thankfully there was one other woman in the class with me which set some of my fears to rest. Yes, I feared I would be the only woman because this is definitely a male dominated sport, and the last thing I wanted was to feel like I had something to prove because I was a girl. The instruction is split, half in the classroom learning things such as bug entomology, knots, reading water, safety, and the Orvis soft sell. The 2nd part of the school is hands on casting practice for many hours till I finished the first day with a sore shoulder. The school ended with two hours of fishing in a private club's stream instead of the Youghiogheny River because the water was too high. I was so excited I had my rod together and was already at the water's edge waiting for the rest of the class. Unfortunately I didn't catch anything that day but I did have a fish hit my fly, I just didn't set the hook. I learned many things those 2 days but the most important thing I learned was everyone has their own reasons for fly fishing and it's not always just about the fish. For some it is a hobby, others their friends already did it, some wanted to take some fishing trips, and for

me it's about being out on the water and letting go of everything else. As a woman it's not easy finding other women to fly fish with or to even learn from, it seems Fly Fishing is still mainly a man's hobby but I think woman are starting to discover what the men have known for a long time that it's not just catching the fish, it's the whole experience. There was a great film at the fly fishing film festival this year about a woman who was taking up the family business of being a guide and wow it was so inspiring to see her out in the wild just doing what she loved and it didn't matter that she was a girl.

Last week I caught my first Brown Trout on a dry fly, on the Lehigh River, and from the second I saw his head come up and grab my fly to eventually holding him in my hands it was an adrenaline rush. I have to admit after leaving class on the 2nd day and not catching a fish I was nervous. Everything changed the moment I got that trout on the line, my mind and hands all seemed to work in perfect symmetry and suddenly I was holding a trout that I caught on a fly and just like that I was a girl with a fly rod and fish in hand. I'm so glad I went to The Orvis School and would highly recommend it for anyone that wants to learn or just hone their skills and especially all the girls out there that have an interest in being the girl on the river holding a fish.



MY FIRST LEHIGH RIVER
BROWN ON A DRY FLY

Jennifer Johnson



Trout Fishing Around the Globe

Many of us not only love fishing our home water of the Lehigh River, we also love to travel and fish. I myself have vowed to fish on every vacation I take, so I always put at least one day aside for fishing. It is not always for trout, but I always fish for something. I am not alone in this quest. Many of us in the LRSA do similarly. In the last newsletter Tom penned an article about the recent trip to Patagonian Chili he was on. I, fortunately had the opportunity to join him on that trip and I must say it was well beyond my expectations. At almost the same time we were in Chili, LRSA member Mat C. was also in the southern hemisphere, only on the other side of the globe in New Zealand. You can read about his awesome trip in an article in this newsletter.

This led me to think of what a great resource we have within our organization to advise fellow anglers on trips, guide services, places to stay, locations and true costs of these type of fishing adventures. We have members who have fished all over the world and who can provide real information on their experiences, not brochure enticing fish stories. So before you drop a couple of grand on a fishing trip of a lifetime you can get some information from others who have been there and done that.

With this in mind we would like to hear from you about some exotic (and not so exotic) places you have fished that you would recommend to your fellow LRSA Members. We will continue presenting articles that can provide you with information on the many places you can fish. Then if you narrow down where you want to travel to fish and for what species perhaps we can put you in contact with someone who has done the same type of trip so you can make a better more informed decision. Our goal is to build a data base of places, names and contact information on fishing travel.

If you would like to share a story, photos or information on a trip you have been on we would love to hear from you. You can email us or post on Facebook. If you are thinking of traveling and have questions feel free to contact one of the board members and we will do our best to put you in contact with someone in our area who has been on a similar trip.

Best Regards,

Vince Spaits



Nice Chilean Brown Trout taken on a Dave's Hopper

610.261.2767
www.williemarxs.com

WILLIE MARX'S
BAIT TACKLE & MORE

5105 MAIN STREET ♦ WHITEHALL, PA 18052

Give us a call...Fishing is our business!

Sean M. Heffelfinger, MD
Michael F. Benavage, MD
Family Medicine



610.264.0411
1400 Main Street • Catasauqua, PA 18032

“Hooking up down under” *By Mat Cecatiello*

I picked up my first fly rod over 30 years ago, and like most people new to the sport, I found myself bringing my spinning outfit along as a backup whenever visiting my local stream. And so it went for a while until the passion slowly crept in and I was forever hooked. Since those early days of flies in one pocket and worms in another, I've always dreamt of visiting what I consider fly fishing utopia, otherwise known as New Zealand.

This dream trip, previously considered unattainable, took root last year on my 49th birthday. You can probably see where this is going. With my family having three consecutive birthdays in February, we all gather together and inevitably the question is always, “how old are you this year?”.....“OMG 49! We have to do something special for your 50th”. And the seed was planted.

My research lead me to a small town on the south island of New Zealand where the big browns live called Nelson. Although with a population of about 46,000, you would think Nelson was a ghost town after 5pm. There are plenty of restaurants and a few places to grab a beer, but the laid back culture of the Kiwis ensures plenty of time for everyone to enjoy the outdoors, and what an outdoors it is! If you enjoy witnessing majestic snowcapped mountains, kayaking a rocky ocean coastline or any number of outdoor activities New Zealand is for you. But I was there for one reason and one reason only. To land one of those legendary browns. And the Kahurangi National Park delivered.

After several long flights that would test any seasoned traveler, I finally arrived at my destination. I was welcomed the next day at my motel with a “good day mate” by my guide, Anton, from New Zealand Trout Adventures. I had planned to divide my trip into two parts. I would rely on [Anton's](#) experience and local knowledge of the back country first before spending some time on my own exploring. I can't emphasize enough how invaluable my time with him turned out to be!

To save some money, Anton made a few calls and arranged to intercept a local helicopter pilot during his rounds. After an hour and a half drive we meet the helicopter at one of the trailheads. A short flight later, I found myself in heaven! Along with the beautiful scenery, New Zealand's back country hut system is unmatched. Although I travelled all this way with back country gear to sustain myself for two weeks, I left half of it at the motel. After watching the helicopter takeoff and leave us in the middle of nowhere, I claimed a bunk at the hut and was off to the river.

The word “fishing” does not describe the experience. Hunting, or better yet, stalking is a more suitable word for what they do down under. These fish have no predators and therefore get really big. They freely hold in the shallows and sight fishing is most effective. This is where a local guide earns his keep. They rival any bone fish guide as far as spotting fish.

February is midsummer in New Zealand and the peak of cicada season. Big deer hair patterns which require a fast action rod just to roll over the fifteen foot leader and get it through the air. The strikes from these big browns are very slow and deliberate. Patience and a strong nerve is needed while watching a dark shadow turn towards your fly and that big white mouth break the surface to take your dry. Your next thought is “if I lose this fish I'm going to kill myself!” And then comes the *photo opp.*, and everything is right with the world. This scenario happened only once my first day but things would explode on day two. In total, my time with Anton would produce twenty or more fish in the 4 to 5 pound range with one 6 pounder.

After spending a day back in Nelson it was time to see how I would fare on my own. Another helicopter flight, direct from Nelson this time, (FYI the longer the flight the more expensive it is. It's a good thing I'm only spending \$15 a night for a hut pass) I arrived in another area of the park. The Karama River and its tributaries, the Leslie and Crow, proved to be challenging. Like I said earlier, Anton and his ability to spot fish was invaluable. Time spent with him was well worth it. I consider myself a knowledgeable and experienced fly fishermen, but learning the techniques, what flies to use and Anton's guidance on where the fish hold, proved in no small part my ability to catch at least one 5 pounder each day I was on my own.

The experience was everything I hope it would be. And I hope one day you get to experience it too.



Lehigh River Fly Fishing Journal

By Tom Gyory

On one trip to the Lehigh This year, I caught a trout with very few spots on it. In fact I counted them on one side, about thirty spots. From all the trout I ever caught, I thought this was the fewest spots I had ever seen. I was curious if this was common or rare or if this was another species. I shared the photo on Facebook and I got many responses. Some people said it was common, some said it was rare, some said it was a wild brown and some said it was a native brown and some said it was stocked and some said it was a holdover. Some people described it as a Loch Leven strain and others said it was a German strain. Before I could put a name to my trout, I thought I would need to do some research and define these terms.

In the Animal kingdom, Trout are in the Salmonidae family. There are three common species of trout in the Lehigh River. Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The only trout native, meaning originating from the area of Eastern Pennsylvania is the brook trout. All other trout are non-native and therefore were stocked at some point. Brown trout were imported in 1883 by Fred Mather of NY from Baron Lucius von Behr of the Black Forrest region of Germany. Two years later another strain of brown trout was imported from Loch Leven, Scotland. These brown trout interbred and adapted to form all the American types of brown trout we see today including the anadromous (migratory), riverine (rivers), and lacustrine (lakes). Rainbow trout were imported in 1875 to New York and Michigan from the McCloud river basin in California.



I already defined a native trout now let's define some of the other descriptors. A stocked trout is a trout bred in a hatchery and then transplanted to a stream. I would include our Whitlock Vibert Box program in this as been naturally bred and born in the river it lives in. There is evidence that we do have some wild trout that are in the Lehigh. A hold-over trout is a trout that was stocked in a river and survives more than one year in that river. In other words, it has learned to eat and avoid predators. Many of the older, larger fish that are caught in the Lehigh are holdovers.

Now back to my trout in the photo. I believe, after doing research and applying my experience of trout on the Lehigh, that the trout I caught was a rare, wild, Loch Leven brown trout. Rare, because it has few spots, the fewest I've ever seen. Please share any photos of a trout with less spots. Wild, because I never saw the LRSA stock anything with this spot pattern before. I could be wrong but I am going to take photos next time we stock to see if there are any similar trout from the hatchery. Loch Leven, because German browns have distinctive orange spots on them and this trout does not have any.

Let me know what you think. Be sure to share any unusual catches. It makes trout fishing in the Lehigh even more interesting.

See you on the Lehigh. Keep spreading the good word about the LRSA.



71 S Wyoming Ave.
Edwardsville, PA
18704

Vince Spaits
Owner
215.272.3175

270 Union St.
Luzerne, PA
18709

FREIGHTLINER **MAC** **WESTERN STAR TRUCKS**

Horwith Freightliner and Western Star

1449 Nor-Bath Blvd.
P.O. Box 7, Rt. 329
Northampton, PA 18067
610/261-2220 • 800/220-8807
610/261-2916 Fax
www.horwithfreightliner.com

LAFFERTY CHEVROLET

829 W STREET RD
WARMINSTER, PA 18974
215-672-2000

www.laffertychevy.com

LRSA 2017 Membership Geographical Distribution - towns listed with 3 or more sponsors

A total of 143 towns, 49 have 3 or more sponsors



Congratulations and Many Thanks to Lehighton who have dominated the sponsorship numbers again this year with 50 sponsors!



LRSA SPONSORSHIP FORM

Yes, I do want to support the Lehigh River Stocking Association in the effort to restore, revitalize and restock trout into the magnificent Lehigh River. Is this New or Renewal Sponsorship _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Basic Sponsorship --- \$25. All sponsorships include badge (or badge decal) ID card and subscription to Newsletters

Silver Sponsorship --- \$45. You will receive a LRSA T-Shirt. State your size: Sm _____ Med _____ Lrg _____ XL _____ XXL _____ (___ Don't send T)

Gold Sponsorship --- \$65. You will receive a LRSA Hat (or _____ don't send hat)

Husband and Wife Sponsorship -- \$45. ___ Same as Basic. / **Family Sponsorship -- \$65.** Husband, Wife and Children < 16 ___ same as Basic

Platinum Sponsorship --- \$100. You will receive a LRSA Hat and T-Shirt or you will receive a Sweatshirt. Circle your preference and state your size Sm _____ Med _____ Lrg _____ XL _____ XXL _____ (___ Don't send merchandise)

Life Time Sponsorship --- \$250. You will not to renew each year.

Conservation Sponsorship --- \$70. You will receive a special LRSA Hat and \$20 will be allocated Conservation Program. (___ don't send hat)

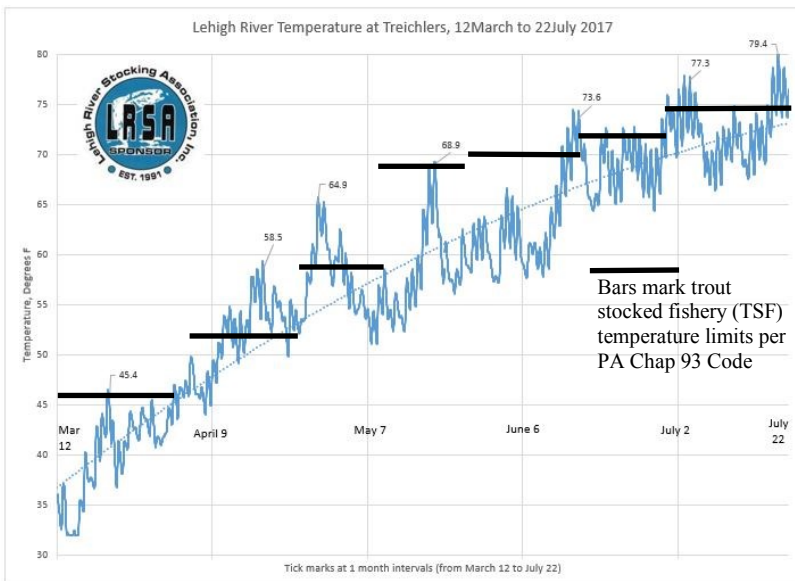
Diamond Sponsorship --- \$500.

Amount of Sponsorship you would like to direct toward LRSA Conservation Programs _____

Please remit to: Lehigh River Stocking Association | PO Box 97 | Lehighton | PA | 18235

Amount of Check Enclosed _____ Visit (or renew at) or web site: www.LRSA.org. Check out our facebook page or send us email at: Lehigh.River.Stocking.Association@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting the Lehigh River trout fishery

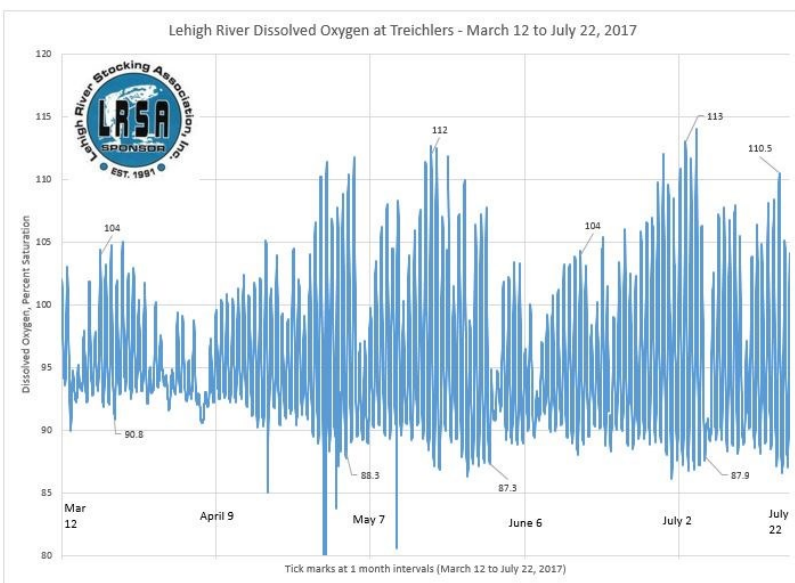
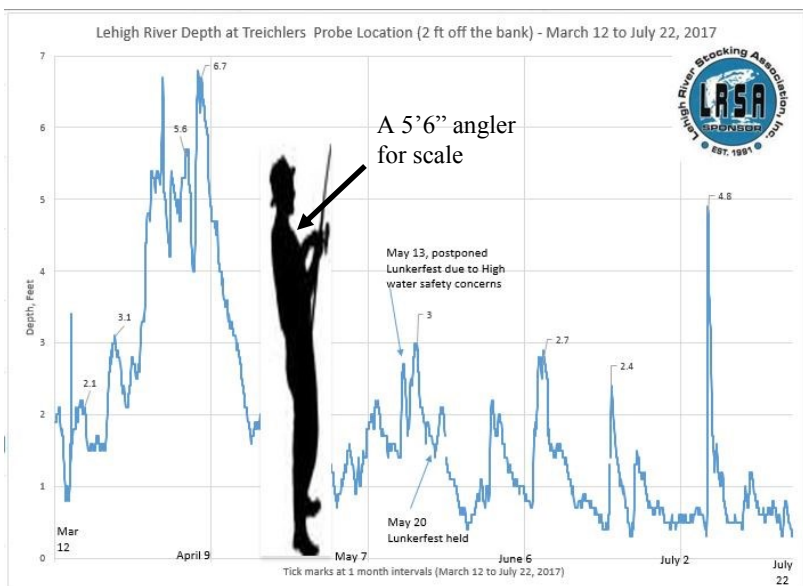


Water Quality Report

The water quality monitor has been recording Lehigh River conditions at Treichlers area this year. This information helps to characterize the river conditions adding to our understanding of what is normal or abnormal in this area. At left we see the temperature profile from March through late July. The sweeping dashed line is the average temperature and the horizontal lines indicate the temperature limits per PA Chapter 93 for trout stocked fisheries. We can see the average temperatures are all within these limits. This is important as we continue to request support from the PA Fish and Boat Commission for assistance in stocking the Lehigh and they have the view that conditions in Lehigh County are not suitable. The LRS has a good deal of angling evidence that the trout fishery is doing quite well in Lehigh County as well as this scientific data.

Also at left is the depth of the river. As we all know, we have had to contend with high water often this year and you can see the depth profile where the probe is located, on the river bed and about 2 foot off the bank.

The dissolved oxygen level in the river is great for the trout fishery with readings averaging between 90 and 100% saturation. Photosynthesis by algae produce pure O₂ in the river and contribute to the cases that exceed 100% saturation and is also the reason for the wide swings from day to night. Also, high water events raise turbidity that attenuates sunlight and photosynthesis so you can see the DO cycles are reduced during these events.



Ardea Alba

*Below the factory
that used to make
the river bleed
indigo and sienna,
I crouched beside
a wooden bridge
in morning light
to watch an egret
work the reeds.
Sleek & blinding
white, a specter
I believed come back
to show me something,
she took a cautious step,
froze then slowly stretched
her neck. A pickup, passing,
shook the bridge, jarred
me away & when I looked
again, she'd already spread her wings,
a sunfish sliding down her slender beak.*

Richard lives in the Nashoba Valley in Eastern Massachusetts, not far from the Nashua and Squannacook Rivers. There, and in nearby streams, he fishes and observes. This poem first appeared in the journal, "Canary." It is reprinted with his permission.

Conservation Programs

By Matt MacConnell

The LRSA continued with our efforts to get project approval for a fishway on the Parryville Dam on the Pohopoco Creek. The latest status is that the application was re-submitted and it is currently under review by Andy Shiels at PFBC. The project application included a signed lease with the dam owners (Palmerton Municipal Authority) indicating our close cooperation on this project. As you know the Pohopoco Creek is the coldest and highest volume tributary to the Lehigh and the fishway will open up 5 miles of spawning habitat and thermal refuge for Lehigh trout populations.

The Buck Mountain Creek mine drainage site is located in Weatherly near the Eckley Mining Village. The water from this mine is about 6 parts per million aluminum and is toxic to aquatic life. As a result the Buck Mountain Creek tributary to the Lehigh is dead.



The remediation system at this site involves flowing the water over limestone to raise the pH from 4 to 5 pH causing aluminum to precipitate out of solution. The aluminum comes from clay in the mountain that contains this element. Challenges at this site are keeping the limestone active in raising pH and getting good flow distribution through the limestone field while minimizing bypass flow. The LRSA has a kit that can measure aluminum in solution, in the picture at right a volunteer operates the kit to determine the aluminum concentration.



From top left and clockwise: The Parryville Dam on the Pohopoco Creek, Buck Mountain #2 mine face with bypass flow opposite that flows to the creek. Matt M. calibrating the probe at Treichlers, and volunteer Alex Smith doing aluminum analysis on water at the Buck Mountain remediation site.

Visit the "Best Stocked Bar In Carbon County"
Open 7 days a week (BAR OPEN UNTIL 2am)
DJ's on the Weekends



610-852-2323
ROUTE 248 - PARRYVILLE
www.riverwalcksaloon.com

SKINNER'S LEHIGH RIVER

DRIFT BOAT

SKINNER'S GUIDE SERVICE

FISHING TRIPS

FLY OR SPIN THESE LIMITED ACCESS AREAS
TROPHY TROUT • HEAVILY STOCKED • NATIVE POPULATIONS
lehighriverfishingtours.com

Paul Davidson
(610) 509-2715

Lehigh River Stocking
Assoc. Sponsor

New York State
Licensed Guide

High Water Blues—by Steve Chuckra

Anglers had some tougher than normal fishing on the Lehigh this May. I attribute this to a wet and cool spring for lack of any other reason. Despite high flows, I thought that the river might be primed for a banner year; because I had some very exciting trips during mid-April. I was especially surprised to see considerable fly munching activity that early in trout season, and I did well tailing size 12 dark cahills and march browns just under the surface film. Even though the water was high, I averaged seven releases per trip. But like many good things, that spree ended abruptly.

By many accounts, fish activity has slowed considerably; just when you'd expect it to heat up at the end of May. I am hoping that the weather improves and water levels drop, so that we can have some fun with the big

sulfur and green drake hatches. I also noticed that there are a lot of mayflies under the rocks and am hopeful that fishing will pick up in a week or so.

This evening (May 31st), a friend and I fished one of my high water contingency spots. Mostly to stay in touch with what's happening on the river, because we are hoping to catch up with the Lehigh trout when they break their dietary hiatus. I habitually migrate to these spots when water levels make it tricky or downright unsafe to fish elsewhere. That's one

nice thing about the Lehigh; there are usually high water options: but don't forget your wading staff! I'll never forget one rainy spring a few years back when we had to skip a stocking point because the state police were retrieving the body of an angler who drowned in the river that morning.

Fishing was slow tonight and we only managed to net two trout. It was sunny this evening and the bite was non-existent until the sun was well off the surface of the water. Fly hatches were also really sparse. However, there was a good mayfly and caddis hatch right at dark, but not much visible feeding activity. Note: the USGS flow at Lehighton was 1,770 cfs. All other conditions were perfect and I was surprised to see so little fish movement given the success I enjoyed a month ago with comparable flows.

Since the water is high, I've temporarily reduced the number of visits that I normally make to the Lehigh. I am using my extra time to re-familiarize myself with a book my cousin gave me over 20 years ago. It's called "The River Why" by David James Duncan. This book is a very nice read. Personally, I find it touches on fishing obsessions and lots of watery sentiments that are common to most anglers. The book is kind of an "it's about the trip as much as the fishing" type revelation. But, in ways that are reminiscent of bunches of memories and experiences that I have with the Lehigh and fishing in general.

I'm a self-proclaimed fishing addict; my wife and most people who know me think of me as a fishing addict too. My father occasionally remarks about one of my first fishing trips.

By his account, when I was three years old, he was helping me catch brookies in a small beaver dam near what is now Nescopeck State Park. Dad recalls that I screamed my head off whenever he attempted to tell me that it was time to go home. Flash forward 46 years; my wife Carol recently told me, "but you are fishing addict". This was after I said that I was making the proverbial "last cast" on the delayed harvest section of Nescopeck Creek. We were fishing there over the Memorial Day weekend. The fact that she had a full bladder and an empty stomach didn't help my cause much. She has also heard my "last cast" bit on hundreds of other occa-



Continued, High Water Blues from page 10

sions.

I tried comforting Carol with a gratuitous “I’ll stop in ten minutes” promise to prevent her from walking back to the car without me. Hey, addicts are good at telling you what you want to hear! It worked, and I actually did stop fishing; adhering for the most part to my self-imposed time limit, but not without reservation and a deep longing to make a few more casts. Even as an adult, I frequently postpone everything other than fish pursuits during the spring and summer, since not much else seems as important as being with feeding trout.

It goes without saying that I am enjoying the “The River Why” because the characters in this book are also fishing obsessed. It is a good read for all anglers because it tells the story of bait anglers and fly-fishers that come together as a family. That aspect of the book reminds me of the LRSA in some ways and I hope that someday, it will remind me of all like-minded organizations that advocate for the Lehigh. The book characters ultimately learn to manage their fishing obsessions and temperaments in ways that bring a deeper purpose to their lives. It’s interesting to think about this stuff when high water levels are keeping you at home.

My conclusion is, don’t let the high water beat you. It’s good to enjoy fishing and it’s also good to enjoy not fishing. Hopefully, conditions will improve and the not fishing will subside.

Thermal Refuge Conservation Signs at Pohopoco Creek

To All Members— Lehigh River Stocking Association (LRSA) has asked and received permission to place four(4) signs along Pohopoco Creek on River Walck (RW) Saloon property. These signs were placed at four locations at various locations at or heading down to the creek on June 24th this year. The signs (see picture) are asking people to be aware of the reasons the brown and rainbows are stacked up there during periods of warm river temps. The Poho being a cold water sanctuary, these fish are there for thermal refuge. They are very stressed by higher water temps and should not be targeted during these times.

They read:



From left: Steve Chuckra, Gary Klein, Tom Gyory and Matt MacConnell

NOTICE:

This section of the Pohopoco Creek is a known cold water sanctuary (thermal refuge) for Lehigh River trout when river temperatures rise above 70 degrees (mainly July to end of August). Please do not target these fish during as it is critical for their survival.

The Lehigh River Stocking Association would greatly appreciate your cooperation on this matter. We would also ask your help in enriching this great trout fishery by joining the LRSA @ www.LRSA.org.

The impetus for this project was that LRSA received numerous inquiries and complaints about people filling stringers a couple days a week, sometimes the same people seen twice in the same day. A couple board members saw this occurring first hand, and in one case witnessed teenagers using home made spears

to kill trout. This goes directly against the LRSA mission, and we are hoping not just people fishing this area but other persons (tavern patrons) see these signs as a LRSA conservation effort. We see this as an opportunity to gain membership of non-fishing community who may see these signs and want to help. To all members, we ask that you also keep in mind the reasoning for these signs, and remind people you know or may run into about the importance of this to fish summer survivability. Please remember our mutual objective is to make this a super trout fishery and we need everybody’s help and cooperation on this. Thank you all to Gary Klein for driving this project forward. LRSA Board.

Outreach to Youth at LRSA— **Matt MacConnell**

This was the 2nd year we had a table with our chilled water trout tank at the Step Outdoors Event at Steel Stacks in Bethlehem. We find that the kids love to stop by and look at the trout, like in the picture below left. We have one of each of the common species—brook, brown, and rainbow, and like to teach the kids how to identify them and why they need the cold, clean water. The picture below right was from July 21st where the Lehigh Gap Nature Center Camp had kids on the Lehigh doing a range of exciting events. The LRSA was asked if we were interested in participating in the event and we volunteered to stock some of our Co-Op fish. Tom Gyory pictured below delivered the young rainbow trout in a cooler and the kids helped stock them. Tom found the kids very interested and asking smart questions and he delivered a well received discussion on why trout need clean, cool stream habitat. We also featured a kids pond stocked with dozens of brook trout along with rods, reels and bait for a free youth trout fishing experience at Lunkerfest again this year.



2017 Sponsor of the Year—**Gerhard Buschinski**



Matt MacConnell presents Gerhard (left) with the 7th Annual Sponsor of the Year Award plaque. Chuck Morgenstern looks on approvingly from behind.

When I joined the LRSA and started with helping to stock the Lehigh in the early 90's, Gerhard was up on the truck netting the fish from the Birch Creek Trout Hatchery tanks for LRSA. Ted Miller, our late and missed founder of LRSA, used to comment on how good Gerhard's wife Rose strudel was. I don't know how good the strudel is/ was but I know this, Gerhard has been helping us stock on nearly every event for all these years. In recent years, Gerhard has been very helpful in typing up our stocking stops in advance while keeping track of the number of tubs stocked in each area. His knowledge of the river, and best

places to stop the truck to get down those pesky steep banks, combined with his understanding of the overall stocking plan have enabled me to focus on filming our stocking events (hopefully you have had an opportunity to view some of our stocking videos we post on facebook after each event). He has also done all this while fighting cancer and he is doing great. Congratulations Gerhardt on receiving the 7th Annual LRSA Sponsor of the Year Award! - Matt MacConnell

Lunkerfest 2017 Memories—

The 6th Annual Lunkerfest trout fishing contest was held on May 20th and went very well. We had to delay the event by one week due to a heavy rain on the originally scheduled date that caused high water and related concerns about safety and the quality of trout fishing. The day of the event was overcast in the morning but cleared as the day went on. There were more than 40 prizes awarded for anglers with the largest fish. Some of the fisherman we are happy to say took advantage of our bucket transfer system to measure the fish and get them released unharmed. With more than ten 26" trout released there was a lot of big fish excitement. During the course of the contest Ryan Scott pulled in the biggest fish (24" 7.2 lb rainbow) but people continued to catch massive trout in the Lehigh all season long.

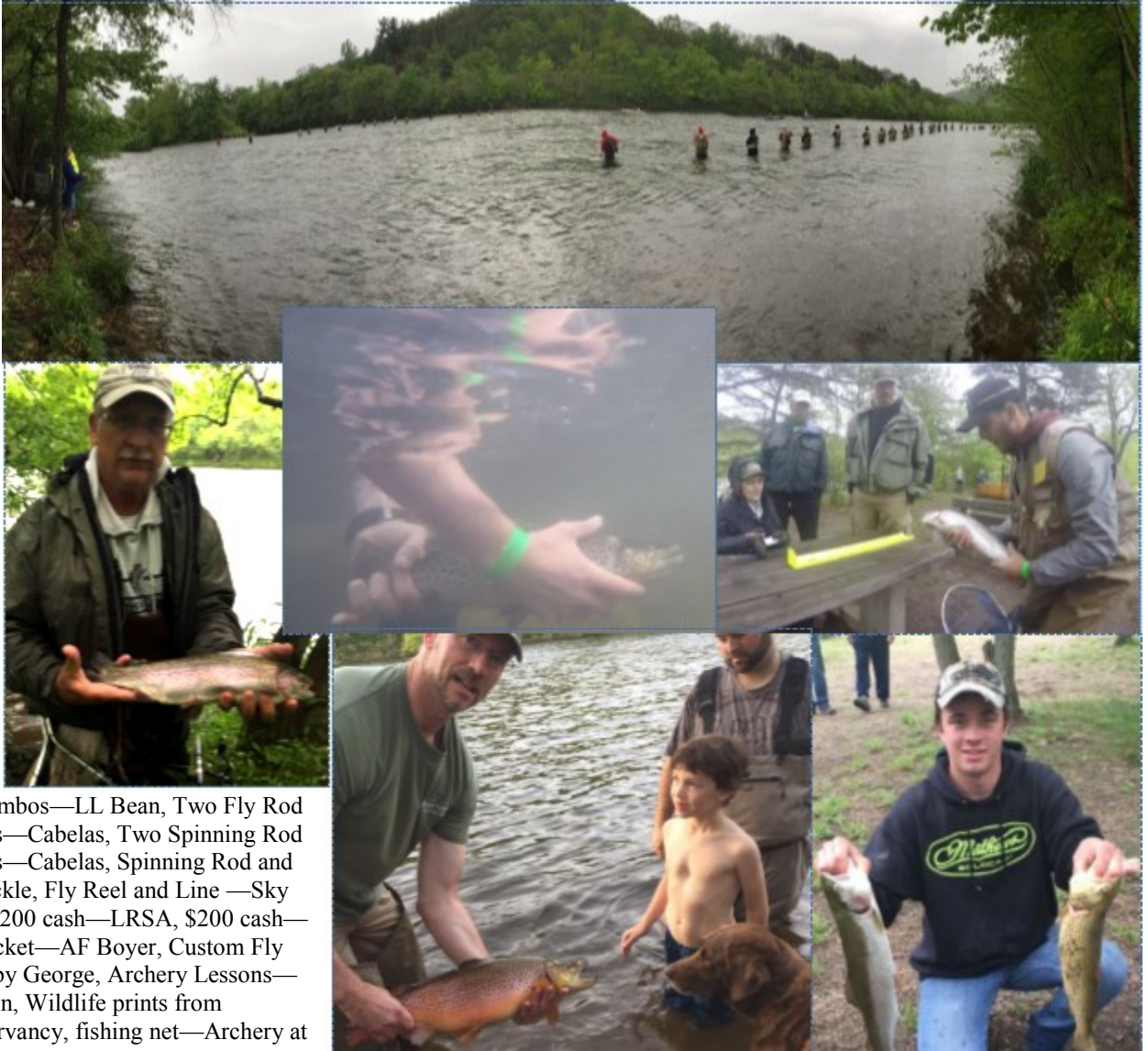
Lunkerfest Prizes Donated and Given to Anglers—thank you to Donors:

Guided Lehigh Drift Boat for 2—Skinner, Guided Lehigh Drift Boat for 2—Rivers, 4 hour Salmon River Float—Wack'em, Rafting Trip for 5—Jim Thorpe Adventures, Rafting Trip for 2—Pocono Whitewater, Custom Spinning Rod—Wayne's Rods, Fly Rod and Reel Combo—Anglers Pro Shop, Fly Four

Rod and Reel Combos—LL Bean, Two Fly Rod and Reel Combos—Cabelas, Two Spinning Rod and Reel Combos—Cabelas, Spinning Rod and Reel—Chris' Tackle, Fly Reel and Line—Sky Blue Outfitters, \$200 cash—LRSA, \$200 cash—LRSA, Fleece Jacket—AF Boyer, Custom Fly Selection—Flys by George, Archery Lessons—Archery Addiction, Wildlife prints from Wildlands Conservancy, fishing net—Archery at

the Glen, Fly Box from Schuylkill TU, Assorted Lures—Besttroutlures.com,

Spinner Assortment—Ronnie Babish, \$100 Gift Cert.—Hill's Taxidermy, Creel—Wellington Sporting Goods, Bike Rental for 2—Jim Thorpe River Adventures



Lehigh Dental

Dr. Thomas R. Gyory, D.M.D.

Free membership to LRSA for new
(610) 266-0466

Visit Us at www.lehighdental.com

General Dentistry • Cosmetic Bonding • Extractions
Root Canal Therapy • Dentures, Partials
Crowns • Implants • Children's Dentistry

223 EUGENE ST. • CATASAUQUA, PA 18032



LEHIGH RIVER STOCKING ASSOCIATION

LRSA

PO Box 97
Lehighton, PA 18235

Email:
Lehigh.River.Stocking.Association@gmail.com

A Non-Profit Organization
Dedicated to the Restoration and
Revitalization of the Lehigh River
Trout Fishery.

Sponsors and interested people are wel-
come to join us at our meetings— 7pm the
last Tuesday of every month at Sliders
Pub, 4650 Rt 309 in Schnecksville.

www.lrsa.org

Friend us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lehighriverstockingassociation)

LRSA Board of Directors: LRSA Officers:

Vincent Spaits

Tom Gyory, DMD

Greg Gliwa

Karl Imdorf

Matt MacConnell, P.E.

Jim Deebel

Chuck Morgenstern

Steve Chuckra

Gary

President: Matt MacConnell, 610-657-2707

Vice President: Steve Chuckra, 570-249-9247

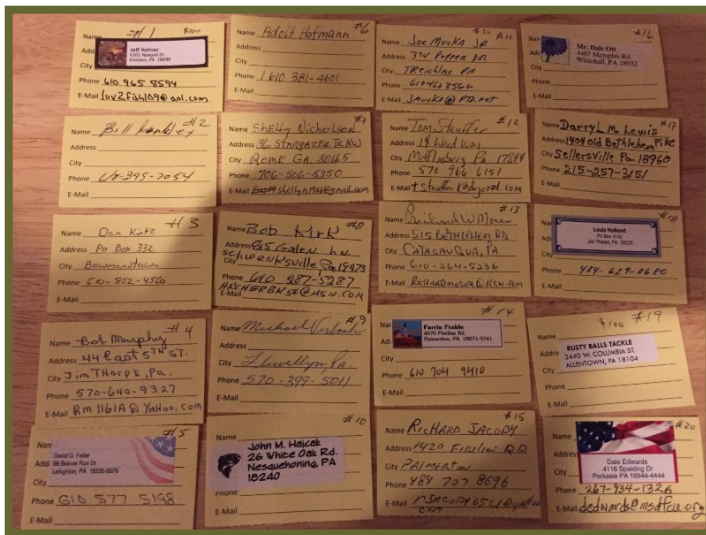
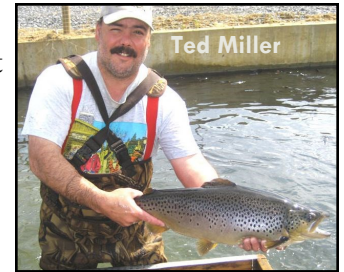
Treasurer: Tom Gyory, 610-730-9359

Merchandise: Chuck Morgenstern, 610-216-4022

Secretary: Jim Deebel

Newsletter Editor: Matt
MacConnell

In Memoriam—LRSA
Founder, Ted Miller



The spring drawing winners
are shown at left. Thanks
everyone for participating in
the drawing. This is a criti-
cal part of our fund raising
to support the trout stocking
program in the Lehigh River.

At right you may have no-
ticed the LRSA stocking
point signs on the Access
Point signs along the Lehigh,
thanks to cooperation with
Wildlands Conservancy.



LRSA Board Members with PFBC Guests at the June 27t, 2017 meeting: From left: Vince Spaits, Matt MacConnell, Tom Gyory, PFBC Lehigh Co. Water Conservation Officer (WCO) Travis Miller, Chuck Morgenstern, PFBC Executive Director John Arway, Gary Klein, PFBC Delaware Watershed Biologist Daryl Pierce, Steve Chuckra, PFBC S. Carbon Co. WCO Scott Christman

